

A New *Asterostigma* (Araceae) from Ecuador

Michael Madison

The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Fla. 33577

The family Araceae is most diverse in the wet tropics, but the subfamily Aroideae includes a number of species native to temperate and dry tropical areas. These are perennial herbs which have above-ground foliage only part of the year and survive the unfavorable season as subterranean tubers. The subfamily is primarily Eurasian in distribution, and is represented in the New World only by *Arisaema* in eastern North America and the tribe Asterostigmateae in South America, comprising eight genera and about two dozen species native to southern Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia.

Like many other groups which are temperate South American in origin, the Asterostigmateae includes species which have migrated northward along the Andean cordilleras where they inhabit cool, middle elevation sites. The genus *Asterostigma* Schott is represented in Peru by *A. pavonii*, a rare species which has been collected several times in recent years. Plowman and Davis 4874 (GH) from Dept. Cuzco, Peru, is now in cultivation at the Selby Botanical Gardens; Madison 1129 (GH) from Dept. Amazonas, Peru, represents the northernmost station for the species. During a recent collecting trip in South America I found a population of plants representing a new species of *Asterostigma* which extends the known range of the genus northward to Ecuador.

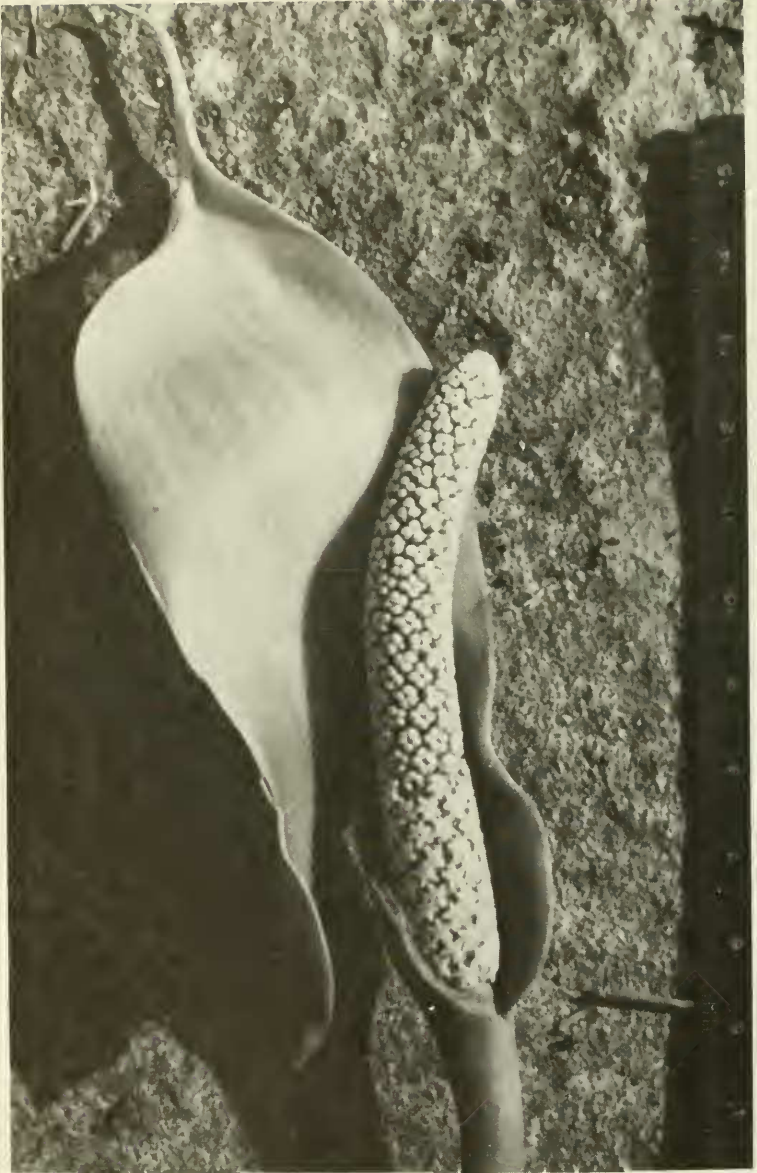
*Asterostigma integrifolia* Madison, sp. nov.

Species foliis integris a congeneribus diversa.

Herba perennis tubere globoso 4-6 cm crasso; petiolus carnosus, teres, 60-80 cm longus, vagina membranacea 15-20 cm longa instructus; lamina integra, ovata, cordata, 24-30 cm longa, 20-25 cm lata, apice acuminata; pedunculus teres, 30-40 cm longus, 6-10 mm crassus; spatha cucullata, subviridis, circa 10 cm longa, apice acuminata; spadix vermiformis, 7 cm longis, 1 cm crassus, parte feminea quam parte staminata dimidio minori; pistilla virida, staminodiis incarnati circumcincta; stigmata stellatae, citrinae, 3-4 mm latae, ramis 5-6; synandria incarnata, antheras globosis.

Type Collection: ECUADOR: Prov. Loja: 14 km E of Loja along road to Zamora, foggy elfin forest, elev. 2600 m., Madison 2441 (specimen lost); Holotype: from cultivated material of the above-cited wild collection, Madison 2942 (SEL, isotypes to be distributed).

*Asterostigma integrifolia* is readily distinguished by its entire leaves from the other species of the genus, all of which have pinnatisect leaves. In addition the pale green spathe and bright lemon-yellow stigmas are diagnostic features. The considerable differences between *A. integrifolia* and *A. pavonii* in a number of characters suggest that the former is not a geographic derivative of *A. pavonii*, but rather may represent an independent northward migration from a temperate South American origin.



Asterostigma integrifolia Madison, inflorescence